leading to death or grievous hurt within the meaning of Section 320 IPC upto punishment of death or imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 10 years but which may extend to imprisonment for life and shall also be liable to fine of one lakh rupees or upto three times the value of the goods seized, whichever is higher.

2. Penalties for subsequent offences to be enhanced upto 10 years and with fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees.

3. Offences relating to spurious or adulterated drugs to be made non-bailable and cognizable.

4. Provision for setting up of special courts to try offences of spurious or adulterated drugs.

5. To confer powers upon police offecers not below the rank of sub-inspector or other designated officer to institute prosecutions under the said Act.

6. Provision for compounding of offences for minor offences under the Act.

The proposed amendments will make the law deterrent to the offenders involved in the manufacture or sale of spurious drugs. The involvement of enforcing agencies like Police will help in speedy investigations to book the culprits and in controlling anti-social elements involved in such activities.

Since the Bill has now lapsed with the dissolution of previous Lok Sabha, necessary action to introduce a bill to enhance penalties for manufacture and/or sale of spurious and/or adulterated drugs under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940, will be initiated by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Import of Chemicals

*278. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have banned import of any chemical used in the pharmaceutical sector during the years 2002—04;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of chemicals manufactured in the country and also the chemicals imported in the country by the pharma industries; and

(d) the measures to prevent the illegal manufacture of banned chemicals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) India produces a vast number of chemicals. Similarly, numerous chemicals are also imported for use in pharmaceutical industry.

(d) Government can take measures under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Insecticides Act, 1968, etc. to prevent the manufacture of banned chemicals.

Increasing Items for Distribution Through FPSs

*279. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the items of commodities for distribution among the consumers through Fair Price Shops, separately for BPL and APL families;

(b) whether the number of items will be increased; and

(c) if so, the names of the new items?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Central Government presently makes available to the States wheat, rice, kerosene and sugar for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops (FPS) under the Public Distribution System. The levy sugar supply under PDS has been restricted to BPL families in all States and UTs except in the North Eastern States/Hill States and Island Territories. Some States also distribute additional items of mass consumption through the FPSs such as cloth, exercise books, pulses, salt and tea etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.